Wetland Identification
Layton Interchange EIS
Davis County, Utah

Prepared for:
Horrocks Engineers

Prepared by:
Wetland Resources

July 2007

Wetland Identification Study
Layton Interchange
Davis County, Utah

Prepared for:

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A. INTRODUCTION

A wetland identification study was conducted in July 2007 in Layton, Utah for a new interchange on Interstate 15 (Figure 1). The wetland study was done for Horrocks Engineers who is providing engineering services on the project for the Utah Department of Transportation. The wetland identification study provides a planning tool for Horrocks to assess approximate wetland impacts resulting from different alternative alignments.

B. METHODOLOGY

The first step of the wetland identification study involved overlaying National Wetland Inventory (NWI) Maps onto color aerial photography for the project area identified by Horrocks. Field reconnaissance was then conducted throughout the entire project area from public roads; no private property was entered. For this reason, no sample points were taken as part of this study. The wetland boundaries were based solely on visual observation of wetland vegetation. Once an alignment for the new interchange is identified, a jurisdictional wetland delineation will be conducted within the impact area.

C. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A total of 3 separate potential wetland areas were identified within the project area, totaling approximately 4.4 acres (Figure 2). In addition to the three potential wetland areas, there is perennial stream within the project area, Kay's Creek, that does not support wetland vegetation above the ordinary high water mark (OHWM), but qualifies as a Waters of the U.S.

Below is a brief description of each of the 3 wetland areas and the Waters of the U.S. with a reference to a photograph of the wetland or channel. The acreages for each wetland are only approximate; they are based on hand-drawn lines, not survey information.

W1 – This approximately 0.95 acre potential shrub wetland occurs adjacent to the railroad tracks in the borrow ditch. Dominant vegetation includes coyote willow (*Salix exigua*), reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), and common reed (*Phragmites australis*). Photo 1.

W2 – This approximately 0.35 acre potential wetland area occurs immediately south of the I-15 overpass. Dominate vegetation includes cattail (*Typha latifolia*) and common reed. Photo 2.

W3 – This approximately 3.11 acre potential wetland is in the northeast portion of the project area. This potential wetland supports wet meadow, marsh, and forested wetland plant communities. Dominant vegetation includes arctic rush (*Juncus arcticus*), cattails, reed canary grass, and a partial overstory of Russian olives (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*). Photo 3.

Kay's Creek - This perennial Waters of the U.S. channel has a rocky substrate and an observable ordinary high water mark. There are patches of wetland vegetation, primarily reed canary grass, located below the OHWM, and numerous coyote willows along the streambanks. Photo 4.

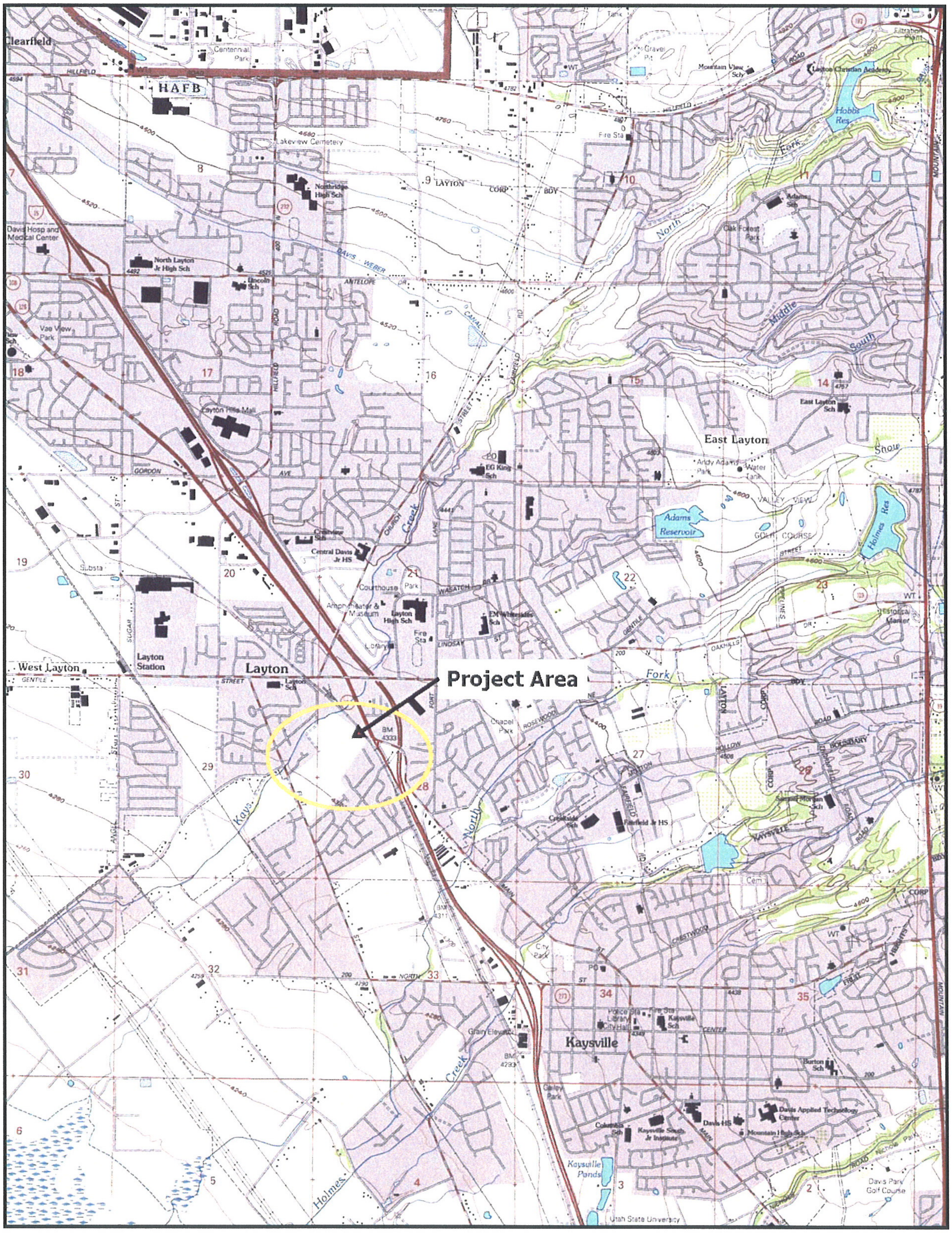

Figure 1. USGS Map showing Project Area

This is not a jurisdictional wetland delineation. No sample points were recorded, and no GPS survey was conducted. The wetland and Waters of the U.S. boundaries are approximate.

Wetland Identification

Layton Interchange EIS

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0 1000 ft

Photo 1. Potential Wetland 1

Photo 2. Potential Wetland 2

Photo 3. Potential Wetland 3

Photo 4. Kay's Creek